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(71) Applicant: Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.
Suwon City, Kyungki-do (KR)

(72) Inventors:
• Chung, Chong-sam
Seongnam-city, Kyungki-do (KR)

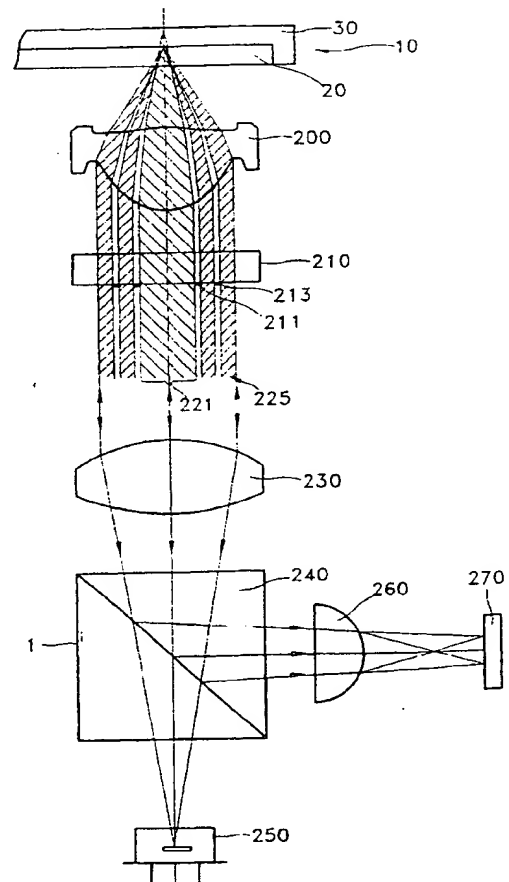
• Lee, Chul-woo
Yongsan-gu, Seoul (KR)
• Seong, Pyong-yong
Songpa-gu, Seoul (KR)

(74) Representative: Chugg, David John
Appleyard Lees,
15 Clare Road
Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2HY (GB)

(54) Objective lens device and optical pickup adopting the same

(57) An objective lens device having two light control surfaces and an optical pickup able to adopt disks having different thicknesses as a recording medium (10) are provided. The objective lens device includes an objective lens (200, 300, 300') arranged along an optical path parallel to the disks (10), and first and second control portions (211, 213, 310, 330, 310', 330') formed either in a light incident surface of the objective lens (300) a light emitting surface of the lens (300') or an extra transparent member (210). Also, the optical pickup includes a light source (250), an optical path converting means (240) placed between the objective lens device (200, 300, 300') and the light source (250) for diverting incident light, and a photodetector (270) for receiving light passing through the objective lens device and the optical path converting means (240) after being reflected from the recording medium (10) to detect an error signal and an information signal. Therefore, two disks having different thicknesses are compatible as a recording medium, and light interference occurring when using a thick disk can be decreased.

FIG. 14



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Description

The present invention relates to an objective lens device which can be applied to a plurality of optical disks having different thicknesses, and to an optical pickup adopting the same.

Generally, an optical pickup of a compact disk player (CDP), a digital video disk player (DVDP), etc., is used to record and reproduce information on and from a recording medium in a non-contact manner.

Preferably, the optical pickup adopted in the DVDP which enables high-density recording and reproduction is applied to a recording medium such as a digital video disk (DVD), a compact disk (CD) or a CD-ROM for compatibility.

However, the standard thickness of the DVD is different from that of the CD or CD-ROM due to an allowance in the inclination of the disk and the numerical aperture of an objective lens. That is, since the thickness of the DVD is different from that of the CD, a spherical aberration occurs when an optical pickup for a DVD is applied to the CD. Here, sufficient light intensity for recording an information signal can not be obtained or a reproduced signal is deteriorated by the spherical aberration.

With a view to solving or reducing the above problems, an objective lens device and an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device have been proposed as follows.

In the objective lens device proposed by the applicant, light of a middle region between a near axis region in which the spherical aberration occurring around the central optical axis does not occur and a far axis region surrounding the near axis region is blocked, an optical spot having a small peripheral light is formed without interference of light in the middle region.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, a light control device is provided for blocking or scattering a light 122 of an incident light 120, incident on the middle region between the near axis region and the far axis region. Referring to Figure 1, the light control device includes a transparent member 110 having a light control layer 111 for blocking or scattering the light incident on the middle region. In Figure 2, the light control device includes a light control hole 111' formed in an objective lens 100', for scattering the light 122 incident on the middle region.

The near axis region is a region around the central axis of the lens (optical path), where negligible spherical aberration exists without influence on the central rays of the incident light 121. The far axis region is a region which is farther from the optical path than the near axis region and in which a light 123 is incident, thereby affecting the central rays. Also, the middle region is a region between the near axis region and the far axis region.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram showing an example of an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 1.

The optical pickup adopts the transparent member 110 having the light control layer 111 which was described with reference to Figure 1. Thus, light emitted from a light source 150 passes through a beam splitter 140 and is then collimated by a collimating lens 130 to be incident on an objective lens 100 parallel to an optical path. Here, the light 122 incident on the middle region is blocked by the light control layer 111 formed on the transparent member 110, so that only the lights incident on the near axis region and the far axis region, respectively, pass through the objective lens 100. The lights 121 and 123 are converged by the objective lens 100 to form an optical spot on an optical disk 10. Thus, the objective lens device is compatible for a plurality of disks 10 having different thicknesses, such as a CD and a DVD.

Then, the light is reflected from the optical disk 10 and received by a photodetector 170 via the objective lens 100, the collimating lens 130 and the beam splitter 140. The photodetector 170 is composed of at least four divided plates which convert the received light into an electrical signal to be used as an error signal or information signal. Here, a condensing lens 160 is disposed between the beam splitter 140 and the photodetector 170.

Figure 4 is a schematic diagram showing an example of the optical pickup adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 2.

The optical pickup adopts an objective lens 100' having a light control hole 111' for scattering the light 122 incident on the middle region. Here, the elements designated by the same reference numerals as those of Figure 3 represent the same elements as those illustrated with reference to Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a graph showing an initial focus error of the optical pickup adopting a CD as a recording medium. The optical pickup includes an objective lens having a numerical aperture of 0.6 and a diameter of 4.04 mm, and the objective lens has an annular light control hole having an inner diameter of 1.2 mm and a width of 0.15 mm.

Here, the X-axis represents the degree of defocus and the Y-axis represents a detected voltage value as an index of the degree of error.

In Figure 5, there are two portions A and B, where the detected voltage values are zero. The portion A occurs when the optical pickup is placed in an "on focus" position to control an initial focus position. On the contrary, the portion B is occurs due to the spherical aberration caused by the difference in thickness of the recording media, and a waveform near the portion B, including the portion B, is defined as a parasitic waveform. The parasitic waveform exists because the focusing point of the beam which passed the far axis region is formed over a broad region by the spherical aberration of the objective lens.

When the parasitic waveform exists, the portion B may be considered as the "on focus" position due to the

mechanical vibration of the recording medium.

To overcome or reduce the above problem, it is an aim of embodiments of the present invention to provide an objective lens device which enables a more accurate detection of an initial focus error signal by reducing the size of a parasitic waveform caused by a spherical aberration, and an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device.

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided an objective lens device comprising: an objective lens arranged at a position along an optical path of a light incident on a recording medium, for converging the incident light to form an optical spot on a recording surface of said recording medium, wherein the device is provided with a first light control portion for blocking at least a portion of the light passing through a objective lens, and a second light control portion for blocking a portion of the light passing through a far axis region of said objective lens, for transmitting light which is incident on the remaining region skipping said first and second light control portions.

Preferably, the first and second control portions are provided on a transparent member arranged at a position along the optical path and separated from the objective lens.

Alternatively, the first and second light control portions are formed on at least one side of said objective lens.

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an objective lens device comprising: an objective lens arranged at a position along an optical path of a light incident on a recording medium, for converging the incident light to form an optical spot on a recording surface of said recording medium; and a transparent member arranged at a position along the optical path, the transparent member being separated from said objective lens, and having a first light control portion for blocking at least a portion of the light passing through a objective lens, and a second light control portion for blocking a portion of the light passing through a far axis region of said objective lens, for transmitting light which is incident on the remaining region skipping said first and second light control portions.

Said first and second light control portions may include a control layer formed on at least one side of said transparent member.

A numerical aperture of said objective lens may be 0.6, said first light control portion having an annular shape is formed such that the inner and outer radii thereof are located at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens, a portion having the numerical aperture of between 0.37 and 0.4, and said second light control portion having an annular shape is formed such that the inner and outer radii thereof are located at a portion of the incident surface of said objective lens, the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.44 and 0.46.

According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided an objective lens device comprising: an objec-

tive lens arranged along an optical path of a light which is incident on a recording medium for converging the incident light to form an optical spot on a recording surface of the recording medium; a first light control portion formed on at least one side of said objective lens, for blocking or scattering at least a portion of the light which is incident on a middle region of said objective lens or at least a portion of the light passing through the middle region; and a second light control portion formed on at least one side of said objective lens for blocking or scattering at least a portion of the light incident on a far axis region of said objective lens, or at least a portion of the light passing through the far axis region.

According to a fourth aspect of the invention there is provided an optical pickup comprising: a light source for irradiating a light; optical path converting means for diverting an incident light; an objective lens device arranged along an optical path between said optical path converting means and a recording medium for converging the incident beam to form an optical spot on said recording medium; a photodetector for receiving the light passing through said objective lens device and said optical path converting means after being reflected from the recording medium to detect an error signal and an information signal; and a first light control portion for blocking at least a portion of the light passing through a middle region of said objective lens device, and a second light control portion blocking part of the light passing through a far axis region of said objective lens device, for transmitting light which is incident on the remaining region skipping said first and second light control portions.

Said first and second light control portions may be associated with a transparent member arranged along an optical path and separated from the objective lens. Said first and second light control portions may include a control layer formed on at least one side of said transparent member.

The numerical aperture of said objective lens is preferably 0.6, said first light control portion having an annular shape is formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens, the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.37 and 0.4, and said second light control portion having an annular shape is formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens, the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.44 and 0.46.

A collimating lens may be provided arranged along an optical path between said light source and said objective lens, for collimating an incident light.

An astigmatism lens may be provided arranged along an optical path between said optical path converting means and said photodetector.

According to a fifth aspect of the invention, there is provided an optical pickup comprising: a light source for irradiating a light; optical path converting means for diverting an incident light; an objective lens arranged

along an optical path between said optical path converting means and a recording medium for converging the incident beam to form an optical spot on the recording medium: a first light control portion formed on at least one side of said objective lens for controlling the light of a middle region of said objective lens; a second light control portion formed on at least one side of said objective lens for controlling a portion of the light incident on a far axis region of said objective lens; and a photodetector for receiving the light passing through said objective lens and said optical path converting means after being reflected from said recording medium to detect an error signal and an information signal.

An optical lens device according to the first or third aspect or a pick-up according to the fifth aspect may contain one or more of the following optional features:

(i) said first and second light control portions may include a control layer formed of a reflective coating in the surface of said objective lens.

(ii) said first and second light control portions may include a light control pattern formed in the surface of said objective lens to scatter or reflect the incident light.

(iii) said light control pattern may be an annular hole.

(iv) said light control pattern may have a notch configuration.

(v) said light control pattern may have one of a protruded staircase shape and a wedge shape.

(vi) said first and second light control portions may include a toothed portion for scattering or deflecting the incident light.

(vii) said first and second light control portions may include a plurality of fine sawtooth patterns for scattering the incident light.

(viii) the numerical aperture of said objective lens may be 0.6, said first light control portion having an annular shape being formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens, the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.37 and 0.4, and said second light control portion having an annular shape formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens, the portion having a numerical aperture between 0.44 and 0.46.

(ix) a collimating lens may be arranged along an optical path between said light source and said objective lens, for collimating an incident light.

(x) an astigmatism lens may be arranged along an optical path between said optical path converting means and said photodetector.

For a better understanding of the invention, and to show how embodiments of the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a diagram showing a preferred embodiment of the optical arrangement of an objective lens device suggested by the applicant of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a diagram showing another preferred embodiment of the optical arrangement of the objective lens device suggested by the applicant;

Figure 3 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an optical pickup device adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an optical pickup device adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a graph showing an initial focus error signal detected by a photodetector of the optical pickups shown in Figures 3 and 4 adopting a CD as a recording medium;

Figure 6 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an objective lens device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an objective lens device according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 8 to 12 are enlargements of the portion designated as E of an objective lens shown in Figure 7 for illustrating various modified examples of first and second light control surfaces of the objective lens shown in Figure 7;

Figure 13 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an objective lens device according to still another preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 14 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 6;

Figure 15 is a diagram showing a preferred embodiment of the photodetector shown in Figure 14;

Figure 16 is a diagram showing the distribution of light received by the photodetector shown in Figure 15 when a relatively thick disk is adopted as a recording medium;

Figure 17 is a diagram showing the distribution of light received by the photodetector shown in Figure 15 when a relatively thin disk is adopted as a recording medium;

Figure 18 is a diagram showing another preferred embodiment of the photodetector shown in Figure 14;

Figures 19 to 21 are diagrams showing the distribution of light received by the photodetector shown in Figure 18 when a relatively thin disk is adopted as a recording medium;

Figures 22 to 24 are diagrams showing the distribution of light received by the photodetector shown in Figure 18 when a relatively thick disk is adopted as a recording medium;

Figure 25 is a graph showing an initial focus error signal detected by the photodetector of the optical pickup according to embodiments of the present invention, adopting a CD as a recording medium;

Figure 26 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 7; and

Figure 27 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 13.

As shown in Figure 6, an objective lens device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention includes an objective lens 200 placed on an optical path of light which is incident on a recording medium 10 and a transparent member 210 placed in the optical path of light and separated from the objective lens 200.

The objective lens 200 focuses an incident light 220 to form an optical spot on a recording surface of the recording medium 10. A spherical aberration of the objective lens 200 is used for the objective lens device to be compatible for the recording medium including disks 20 and 30 each having a different thickness. To this end, the light 222 incident on the middle region of the objective lens 200 is blocked or scattered. Lights 223 and 225 incident on the far axis region of the objective lens 200 are used when the thin disk 20 such as a DVD is used as a recording medium. Also, light 221 incident on the near axis region of the objective lens 200 is used when the relatively thick disk 30 such as a CD or the thin disk 20 is used as a recording medium.

The transparent member 210 has a first light control

surface 211 for blocking the light 222 passing through the middle region of the objective lens 200, and a second light control surface 213 for partially blocking the light passing through the far axis region. that is, light 224. The light incident on a region other than the first and second light control surfaces 211 and 213 passes through the transparent member 210.

The first and second light control surfaces 211 and 213 are formed by depositing a reflective coating or a blocking layer on a predetermined portion of at least one surface of the transparent member 210. The first and second light control surfaces 211 and 213 preferably have an annular shape; however, they may have a circular, triangular, rectangular or some other polygonal shape.

Figure 7 is a view illustrating an objective lens device according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

The objective lens device includes an objective lens 300 having a first light control portion 310 and a second light control portion 330 which are formed in the light incident surface of the objective lens 300, that is, a surface of the objective lens opposite to the recording medium.

The first light control portion 310 blocks or scatters at least part of light 222 incident on the middle region of the objective lens 300, and the second light control portion 330 partially blocks or scatters the light incident on the far axis-region of the objective lens 300, that is, the light 224. Actually, the first light control portion 310 and the second light control portion 330 may be formed to have the same shape.

Figure 8 is an diagram showing the enlarged portion E of the objective lens 300. As shown in Figure 8, the first and second light control portions 310 and 330 may be a reflective member 320 such as a reflective coating or a mirror for reflecting the incident beam.

Also, the first and second light control portions 310 and 330 may be a light control pattern for scattering or deflecting the incident light.

Modified examples of the light control pattern will be described with reference to Figures 9 to 12.

As shown in Figures 7 and 9, the light control pattern is formed as a notch-type hole 322 by which the light incident thereon is scattered or reflected. As shown in Figure 10, the light control pattern may be formed as a protruded wedge shape 324 and a protruded staircase shape (not shown). Also, as shown in Figure 11, the light control pattern may be a toothed portion 326 for scattering or reflecting the incident light. Also, as shown in Figure 12, the light control pattern may be a fine saw-tooth pattern 328 for scattering the incident light.

Preferably, the first and second light control portions 310 and 330 have an annular shape, and may have a circular, triangular, rectangular or some other polygonal shape.

If the first and second light control portions 310 and 330 have an annular shape, the positions of the first and

and light control portions 310 and 330 may be defined by a numerical aperture (NA) since NA is defined as

$$NA = n \sin \theta = n \frac{\text{significant diameter}}{2 \cdot \text{focal distance}}$$

wherein n is a refractive index of medium.

For example, when adopting an objective lens having an NA of 0.6, the first light control portion 310 is preferably located at a position where the inner and outer diameters thereof correspond to portions having NAs of 0.37 and 0.4, respectively. Also, the second light control portion 330 is preferably located at a position where the inner and outer diameters thereof correspond to portions having NAs of 0.44 and 0.46, respectively.

Figure 13 is a diagram illustrating the objective lens device according to still another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in Figure 13, a first light control portion 310' and a second light control portion 330' are formed in the surface of an objective lens 300', facing the recording medium. The first and second light control portions 310' and 330' have the same structures as the first and second light control portions 310 and 330 described with reference to Figures 7 to 12. However, the locations and radii of each light control portion are different from those of Figures 7 to 12.

Also, the first and second light control portions may be formed in both surfaces of the objective lens, wherein the light control portions are located in the same optical path. In this case, the radii of the first and second light control portions formed on the surface facing the recording medium are smaller than those formed on the other surface of the objective lens.

Meanwhile, a convex lens is used as the objective lens in the above embodiments; however, the convex lens may be replaced by a flat lens such as hologram lens or Fresnel lens based on a diffraction theory. The diffraction theory is well known; therefore, a description thereof will be omitted.

In the above-described objective lens device, light incident on the middle and far axis regions is partially blocked or scattered by the spherical aberration, thereby sharply reducing the size of a parasitic waveform.

Figure 14 is a diagram illustrating an optical pickup utilising the objective lens device shown in Figure 6.

The optical pickup includes a light source 250, an optical path converting means 240, an objective lens device and a photodetector 270.

The light source 250 emits a laser beam having a predetermined wavelength. Preferably, a small semiconductor laser is adopted as the light source 250.

The optical path converting means 240 diverts the light by transmitting and/or reflecting the incident light. That is, the optical path converting means 240 transmits the light emitted from the light source 250 toward a recording medium 10 and reflects the light reflected from

the recording medium 10 toward the photodetector 270. The optical path converting means 240 may be a half mirror or a polarization beam splitter for transmitting only a polarized beam. Also, a hologram optical element (HOE, not shown) having a predetermined diffraction pattern may be adopted.

The objective lens device is located in the optical path between the optical path converting means 240 and the recording medium 10 as described with reference to Figure 6, and includes an objective lens 200 for converging the light emitted toward the recording medium 10 and a transparent member 210 having a first light control layer 211 and a second light control layer 213 which partially block the light emitted toward the objective lens 200.

The photodetector 270 receives the light via the objective lens 200 and the optical path converting means 240 after it is reflected from the recording medium 10 so as to detect a focusing error signal, a tracking error signal and an information signal (radio frequency signal) from the recording medium 10.

Preferably, the optical pickup further includes a collimating lens 230 formed in the optical path between the light source 250 and the objective lens 200 for collimating the incident light. Accordingly, the light incident on the objective lens 200 is maintained parallel. Also, the optical pickup may further include an astigmatism lens 260 in the optical path between the optical path converting means 240 and the photodetector 270.

Preferably, the photodetector 270 is composed of four divided plates A, B, C and D as shown in Figure 15 in order to detect a focusing error signal according to an astigmatism method.

In this case, a spot formed in the center of the photodetector 270 has center portions 221a and 221b which correspond to the light 221 (see Figure 14) incident on the near axis region and peripheral portions 225a and 225b which correspond to the light 225 (see Figure 14) incident on the far axis region as shown in Figures 16 and 17.

Figure 16 is a diagram showing the distribution of light during an "on-focus" state when a relatively thick disk is adopted as a recording medium, and Figure 17 is a diagram showing the distribution of light during an "on-focus" state when a relatively thin disk such as a DVD is adopted as a recording medium. Comparing Figure 16 with Figure 17, the diameters of the central portions 221a and 221b which correspond to the light of the near axis region are scarcely changed. However, the diameters of the peripheral portions 225a and 225b corresponding to the light of the far axis region, and the diameters of portions 222a and 222b which are blocked by the first light control layer 211 and the diameters of portions 224a and 224b which are blocked by the second light control layer 213 are remarkably changed.

Referring to Figure 16, the central portion 221a reaches the center of the photodetector 270, and the peripheral portion 225a encloses the periphery of the

photodetector 270. Meanwhile, referring to Figure 17, the central portion 221b reaches the center of the photodetector 270, and the peripheral portion 225b also exists in the photodetector, enclosing the center portion 221b.

Also, the photodetector 270 may be composed of four divided rectangular plates A₁, B₁, C₁ and D₁, and four divided L-shaped plates A₂, B₂, C₂ and D₂ as shown in Figure 18.

Figures 19 to 21 show the distribution of light received by the photodetector when a relatively thin disk is adopted as a recording medium, and Figures 22 to 24 show the distribution of light received by the photodetector when a relatively thick disk is adopted as a recording medium.

The divided rectangular divided plates A₁, B₁, C₁ and D₁ are designed to have a predetermined size so as to receive the maximum amount of light from the near axis region when reading information from a relatively thick disk and to receive the minimum amount of light from the far axis region, and so as to receive light from the both the near axis region maintaining in a predetermined size and the minimized far axis region. Also, when reading information from the relatively thick disk, the light of the far axis region reaches the L-shaped divided plates A₂, B₂, C₂ and D₂ as shown in Figure 22.

Figures 19 to 21 show the distribution of light received by the photodetector when a relatively thin disk is adopted as a recording medium. In detail, Figure 19 represents the case that the objective lens device is in the "on-focus" state, Figure 20 represents the case that the objective lens device is far from the thin disk, and Figure 21 represents the case that the objective lens device is near the thin disk, respectively.

Also, Figures 22 to 24 are diagrams showing the distribution of light received by the photodetector when a relatively thick disk is adopted as a recording medium. In detail, Figure 22 represents the case that the objective lens device is in the "on-focus" state, Figure 23 represents the case that the objective lens device is far from the thick disk, and Figure 24 represents the case that the objective lens device is near the thick disk, respectively.

The photodetector having the above structure uses all signals which pass through the divided rectangular plates A₁, B₁, C₁ and D₁, and the divided L-shaped plates A₂, B₂, C₂ and D₂ when reading information from a thick disk, and uses only the signal which passes through the divided rectangular plates A₁, B₁, C₁ and D₁ when reading information from a thin disk.

Figure 25 is a graph showing an initial focus error signal detected by the photodetector of the optical pickup according to embodiments of the present invention, adopting a CD as a recording medium. The initial focus error signal shown in Figure 25 will be compared with that of Figure 5.

According to the objective lens device of embodiments of the present invention, the light interference

caused by the spherical aberration of the light which passes through the far-axis region is suppressed by the second light control surface formed on the transparent member, so that the size of the parasitic waveform B is decreased by about 40%. Thus, the parasitic waveform caused by the mechanical vibration of the optical pickup and the vibration of the recording medium can be prevented.

Figure 26 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device, illustrated in Figures 7 to 12.

The optical pickup is basically the same as that illustrated in Figures 14 through 24; therefore, elements designated by the same reference numerals as those of Figure 7 have the same function.

In the above optical pickup, the locations of the first and second light control surfaces with respect to a predetermined numerical aperture can be expressed with a numerical aperture (NA).

That is, if the first and second light control surfaces 310 and 330 are annularly shaped, the NA is defined as

$$NA = n \sin \theta = n \frac{\text{significant diameter}}{2 \cdot \text{focal distance}}$$

wherein n is a refractive index. Thus, a disk 20 having a thickness of 0.6mm±0.15mm and a refractive index of 1.5±1 and a disk 30 having a thickness of 1.2mm±0.15mm and a refractive index of 1.5±1 can both be adopted as a recording medium 10. In order to effectively decrease the size of the parasitic waveform, if an objective lens having a numerical aperture of 0.6 is adopted, it is preferable that the first light control surface 310 is formed at a portion where the inner and outer radii thereof are located at portions corresponding to the numerical apertures of 0.37 and 0.4, respectively, and the second light control surface 330 is formed at a portion where the inner and outer radii thereof locate at portions corresponding to the numerical apertures of 0.44 and 0.46.

Figure 27 is a diagram showing the optical arrangement of an optical pickup adopting the objective lens device shown in Figure 13.

The optical pickup is basically the same as the one illustrated with reference to Figures 14 to 24.

Here, the reference numerals which are the same as those of Figures 13 and 14 represent elements having the same function as those of Figures 13 and 14.

Also, the objective lens device adopted in the optical pickup according to embodiments of the present invention may include the first and second light control surfaces 310' and 320' on both surfaces of the objective lens.

In this case, the respective radii of the first and second light control surfaces 310' and 320' formed facing the recording medium 10 are smaller than those formed at the other side.

Thus, optical pickups according to embodiments of

the present invention have a light control surface at the far axis region as well as at the middle region, so that the light is blocked or scattered thereby, thus sharply reducing the size of the parasitic waveform. As a consequence, an effect of mechanical vibration can be eliminated when controlling an initial focus position of the optical pickup.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, further modifications and alterations will occur to those skilled in the art within the scope of the accompanying claims.

The reader's attention is directed to all papers and documents which are filed concurrently with or previous to this specification in connection with this application and which are open to public inspection with this specification, and the contents of all such papers and documents are incorporated herein by reference.

All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive.

Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing embodiment(s). The invention extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

Claims

1. An objective lens device comprising:
an objective lens (200, 300, 300') arranged at a position along an optical path of a light incident on a recording medium (10), for converging the incident light to form an optical spot on a recording surface of said recording medium, wherein the device is provided with a first light control portion (211, 310, 310') for blocking at least a portion of the light passing through a objective lens (200, 300, 300'), and a second light control portion (213, 330, 330') for blocking a portion of the light passing through a far axis region of said objective lens (200, 300, 300'), for transmitting light which is incident on the remaining region skipping said first and second light control portions (211, 213, 310, 330, 310', 330').
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the first and

second control portions (211, 213) are provided on a transparent member (210) arranged at a position along the optical path and separated from the objective lens (200).

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second light control portions (310, 330, 310', 330') are formed on at least one side of said objective lens (300, 300').

4. An objective lens device comprising:

an objective lens (200) arranged at a position along an optical path of a light incident on a recording medium (10), for converging the incident light to form an optical spot on a recording surface of said recording medium (10); and

a transparent member (210) arranged at a position along the optical path, the transparent member (210) being separated from said objective lens (200), and having a first light control portion (211) for blocking at least a portion of the light passing through a objective lens (200), and a second light control portion (213) for blocking a portion of the light passing through a far axis region of said objective lens (200), for transmitting light which is incident on the remaining region skipping said first and second light control portions.

5. An objective lens device as claimed in claim 2 or 4, wherein said first and second light control portions (211, 213) include a control layer formed on at least one side of said transparent member (210).

6. An objective lens device as claimed in claim 2, 4 or 5, wherein a numerical aperture of said objective lens (200) is 0.6, said first light control portion (211) having an annular shape is formed such that the inner and outer radii thereof are located at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens (200), a portion having the numerical aperture of between 0.37 and 0.4, and said second light control portion (213) having an annular shape is formed such that the inner and outer radii thereof are located at a portion of the incident surface of said objective lens (200), the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.44 and 0.46.

7. An objective lens device comprising:

an objective lens (300, 300') arranged along an optical path of a light which is incident on a recording medium (10) for converging the incident light to form an optical spot on a recording surface of the recording medium (10);

a first light control portion (310, 310') formed on at least one side of said objective lens (300, 300'), for blocking or scattering at least a portion of the light which is incident on a middle region of said objective lens or at least a portion of the light passing through the middle region; and

a second light control portion (330, 330') formed on at least one side of said objective lens (300, 300'), for blocking or scattering at least a portion of the light incident on a far axis region of said objective lens (300, 300') or at least a portion of the light passing through the far axis region.

8. An optical pickup comprising:

a light source (250) for irradiating a light;

optical path converting means (240) for diverting an incident light;

an objective lens (200, 300, 300') arranged along an optical path between said optical path converting means (240) and a recording medium (10) for converging the incident beam to form an optical spot on said recording medium (10);

a photodetector (270) for receiving the light passing through said objective lens device (200, 300, 300') and said optical path converting means (240) after being reflected from the recording medium (10) to detect an error signal and an information signal; and

a first light control portion (211, 310, 310') for blocking at least a portion of the light passing through a middle region of said objective lens (200, 300, 300'), and a second light control portion (213, 330, 330') for blocking part of the light passing through a far axis region of said objective lens (200, 300, 300'), for transmitting light which is incident on the remaining region skipping said first and second light control portions (211, 213, 310, 330, 310', 330').

9. A pickup according to claim 8, wherein said first and second light control portions (211, 213) are associated with a transparent member (210) arranged along an optical path and separated from the objective lens (200).

10. An optical pickup as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first and second light control portions (211, 213) include a control layer formed on at least one side of said transparent member (210).

11. An optical pickup as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein the numerical aperture of said objective lens (200) is 0.6, said first light control portion (211) having an annular shape is formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens (200), the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.37 and 0.4, and said second light control portion (213) having an annular shape is formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens (200), the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.44 and 0.46.

12. An optical pickup as claimed in claim 9, 10 or 11, further comprising:

a collimating lens (230) arranged along an optical path between said light source (250) and said objective lens (200), for collimating an incident light.

13. An optical pickup as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

an astigmatism lens (260) arranged along an optical path between said optical path converting means (240) and said photodetector (270).

14. An optical pickup comprising:

a light source (250) for irradiating a light;

optical path converting means (240) for diverting an incident light;

an objective lens (300, 300') arranged along an optical path between said optical path converting means (240) and a recording medium (10) for converging the incident beam to form an optical spot on the recording medium (10);

a first light control portion (310, 310') formed on at least one side of said objective lens (300, 300') for controlling the light of a middle region of said objective lens (300, 300'); and

a second light control portion (330, 330') formed on at least one side of said objective lens (300, 300') for controlling a portion of the light incident on a far axis region of said objective lens (300, 300'); and

a photodetector (270) for receiving the light passing through said objective lens (300, 300') and said optical path converting means (240) after being reflected from said recording medium (10) to detect an error signal and an information signal.

15. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 3 or 7 or a pickup as claimed in claim 14, wherein said first

and second light control portions (310, 310', 330, 330') include a control layer formed of a reflective coating in the surface of said objective lens (300, 300').

an astigmatism lens (260) arranged along an optical path between said optical path converting means (240) and said photodetector (270).

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16. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 3 or 7 or a pickup as claimed in claim 14, wherein said first and second light control portions (310, 310', 330, 330') include a light control pattern formed in the surface of said objective lens (300, 300') to scatter or reflect the incident light. 10

17. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 16 or a pickup as claimed in claim 16, wherein said light control pattern is an annular hole. 15

18. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 17 or a pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein said light control pattern has a notch configuration. 20

19. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 16 or a pickup as claimed in claim 16, wherein said light control pattern has one of a protruded staircase shape and a wedge shape. 25

20. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 3 or 7 or a pickup as claimed in claim 14, wherein said first and second light control portions include a toothed portion for scattering or deflecting the incident light. 30

21. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 3 or 7 or a pickup as claimed in claim 14, wherein said first and second light control portions (310, 310', 330, 330') include a plurality of fine sawtooth patterns for scattering the incident light. 35

22. An optical lens device as claimed in claim 3 or 7 or a pickup as claimed in claim 14, wherein the numerical aperture of said objective lens (300) is 0.6, said first light control portion (310) having an annular shape is formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens (300), the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.37 and 0.4, and said second light control portion (330) having an annular shape is formed such that inner and outer radii thereof locate at a portion of an incident surface of said objective lens (300), the portion having the numerical aperture between 0.44 and 0.46. 40 45

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23. An optical pickup as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:
a collimating lens (230) arranged along an optical path between said light source and said objective lens (300, 300'), for collimating an incident light. 55

24. An optical pickup as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

FIG. 1

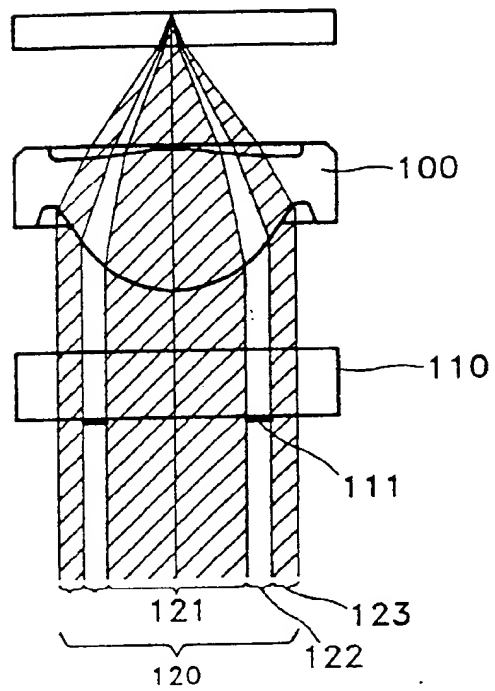


FIG. 2

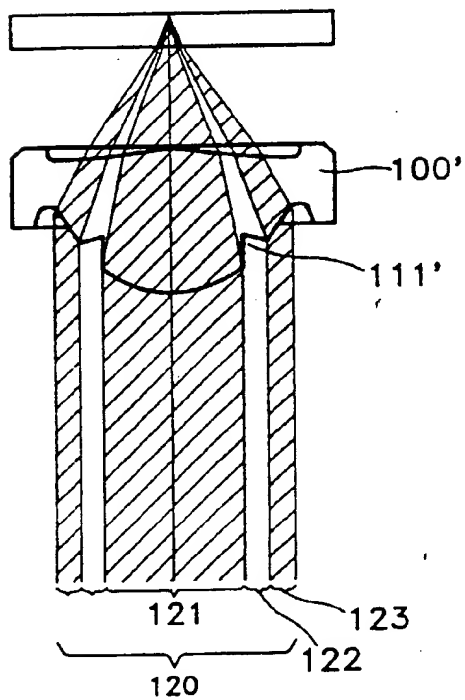


FIG. 3

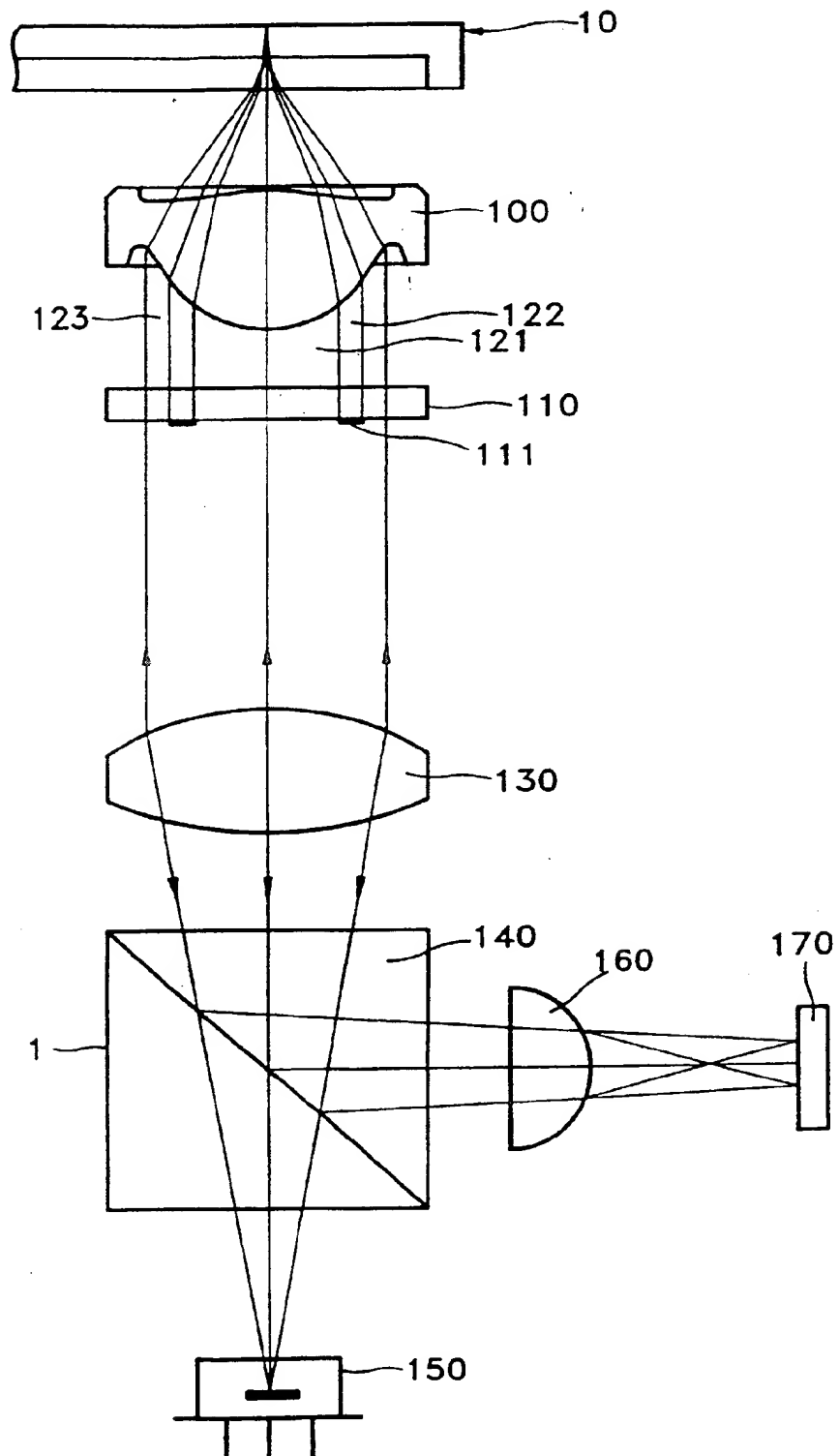


FIG. 4

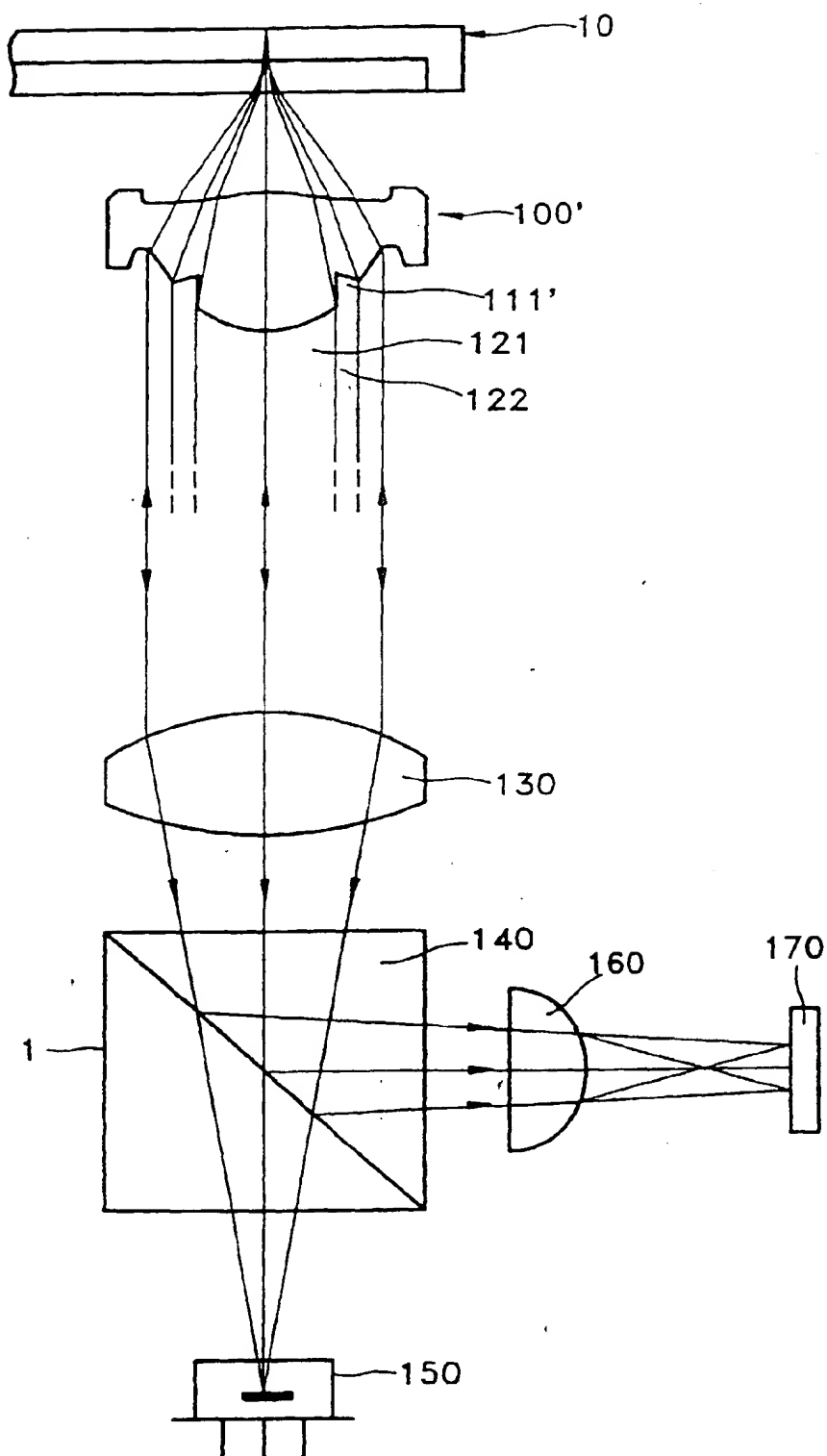


FIG. 5

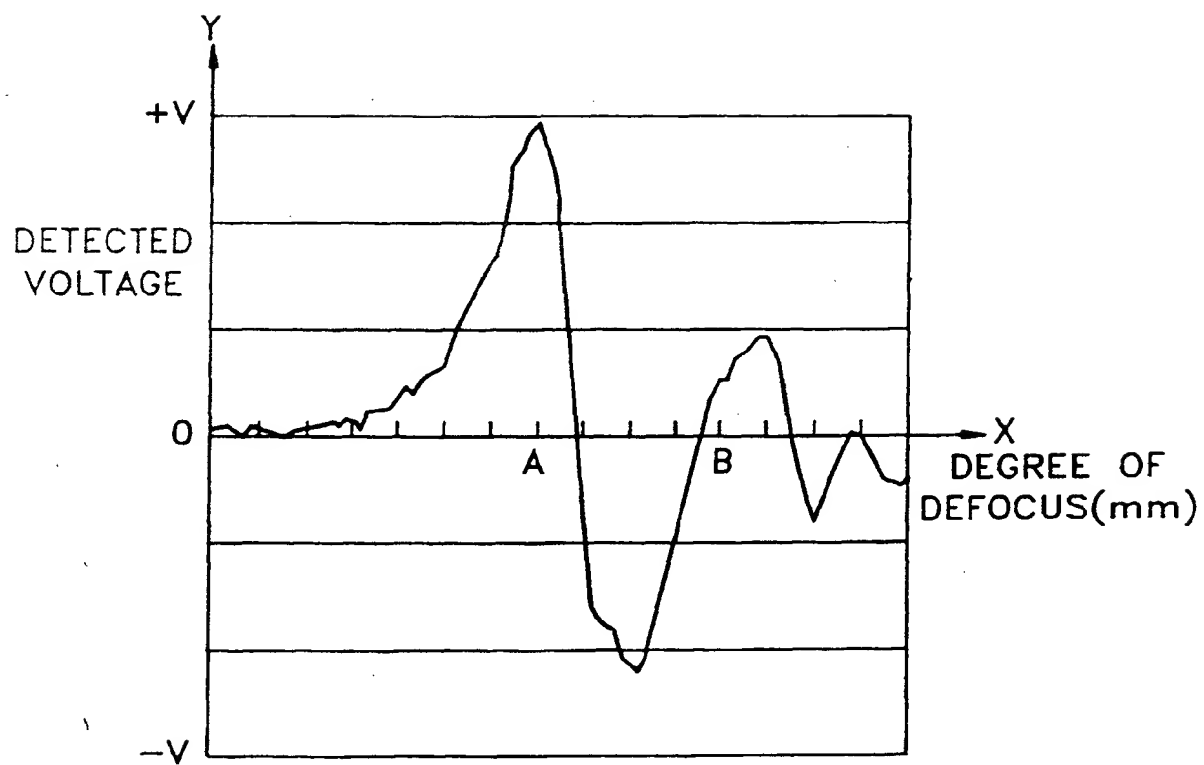


FIG. 6

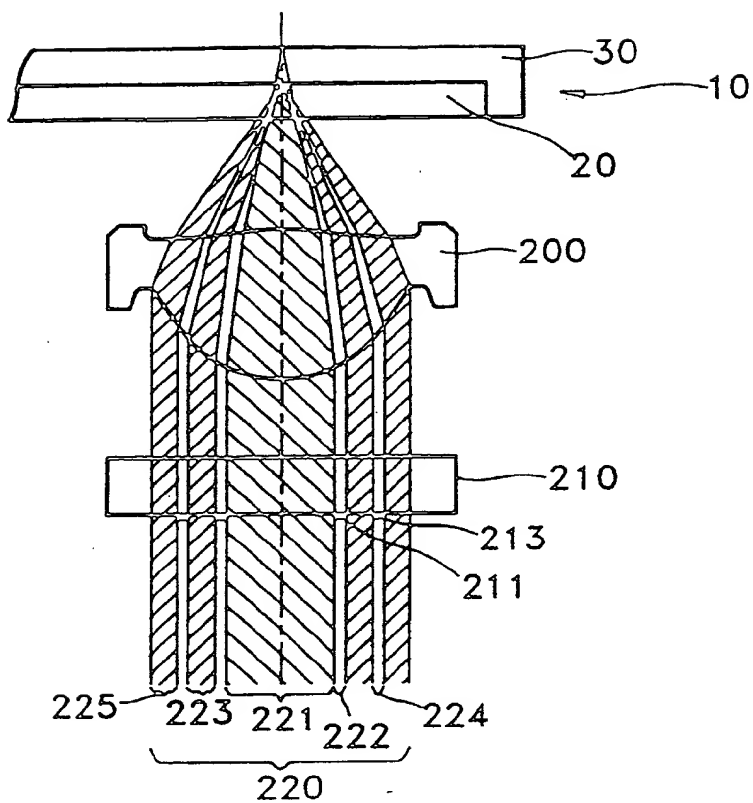


FIG. 7

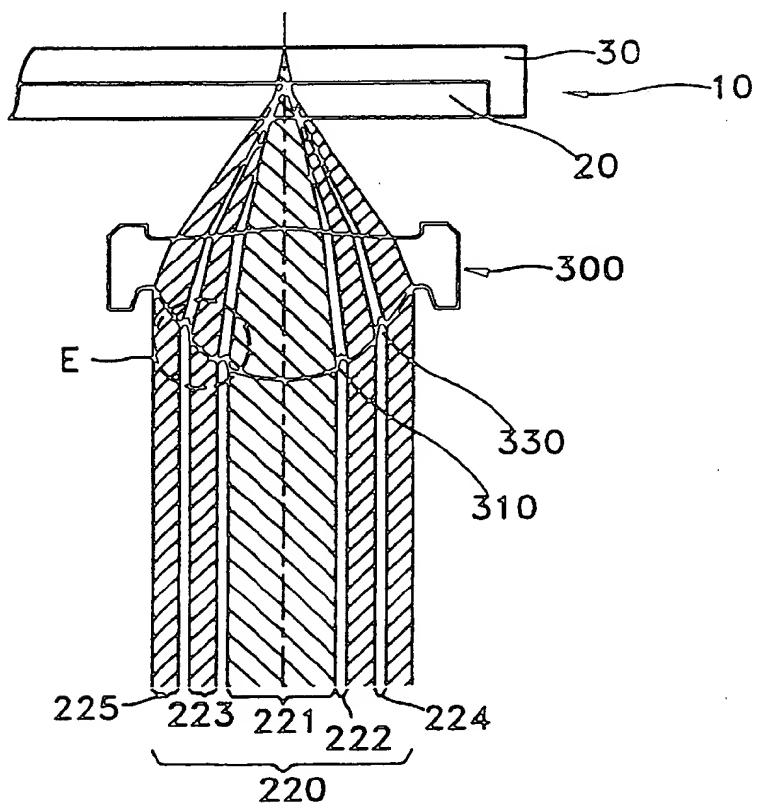


FIG. 8

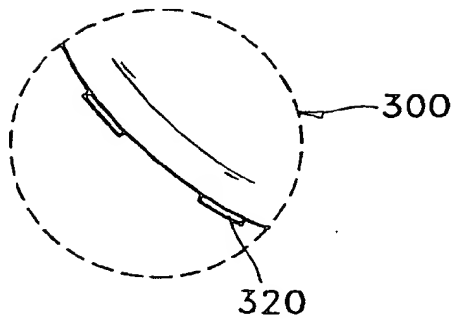


FIG. 9

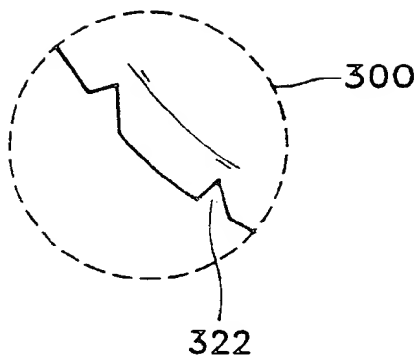


FIG. 10

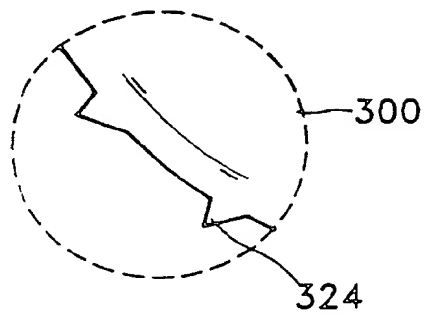


FIG. 11

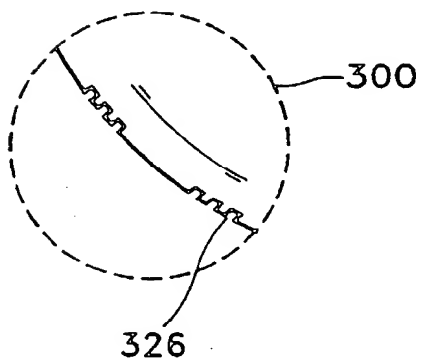


FIG. 12

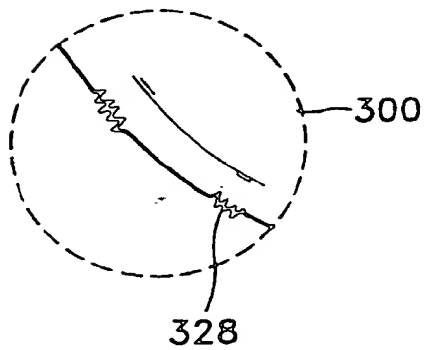


FIG. 13

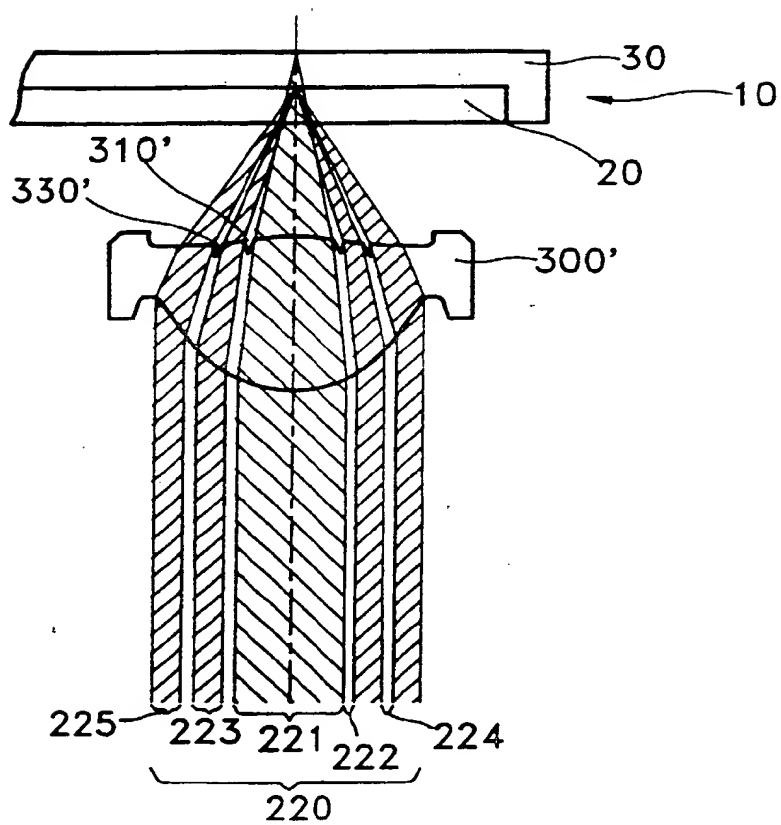


FIG. 14

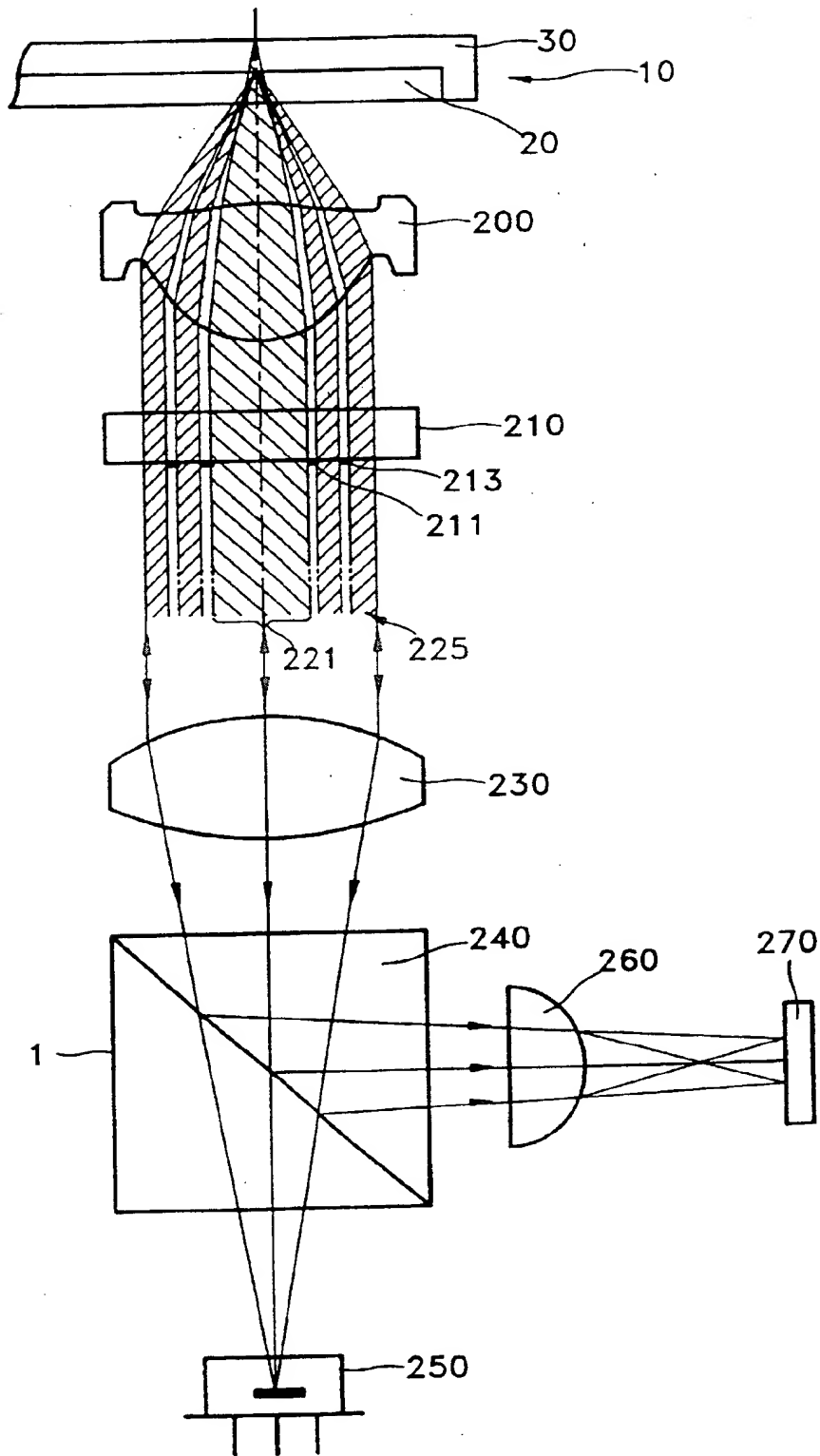


FIG. 15

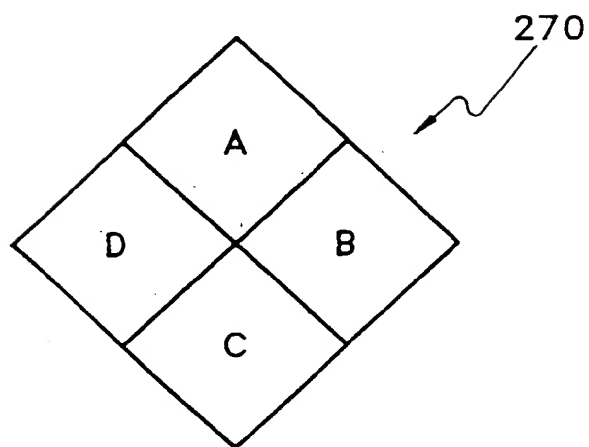


FIG. 18

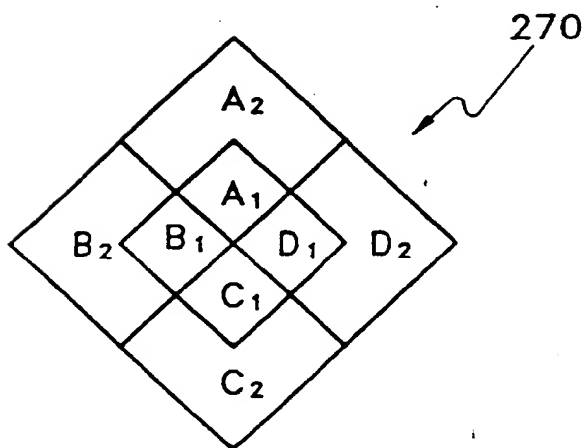


FIG. 16

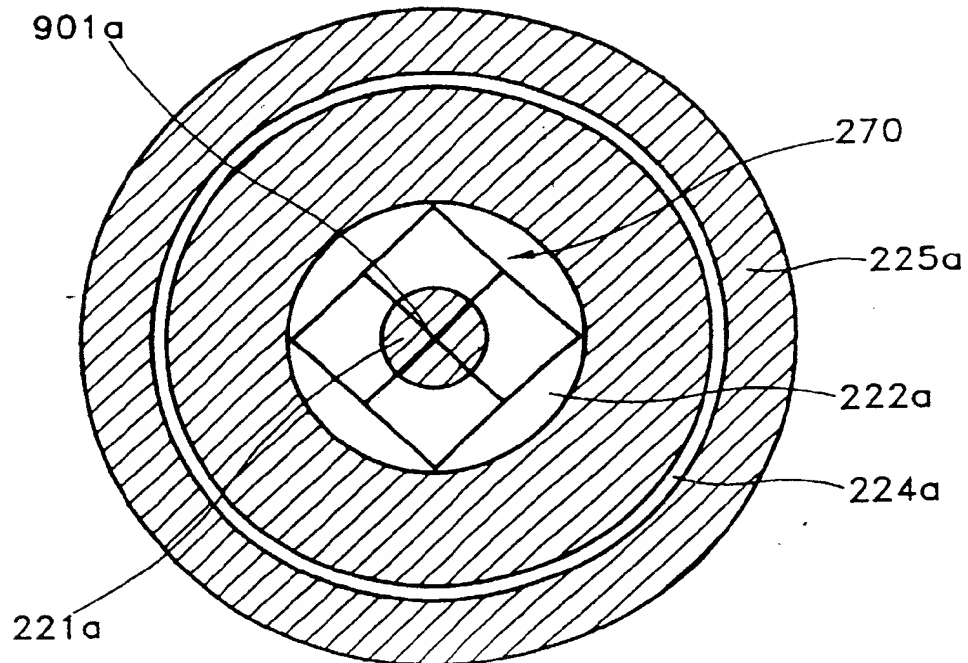


FIG. 17

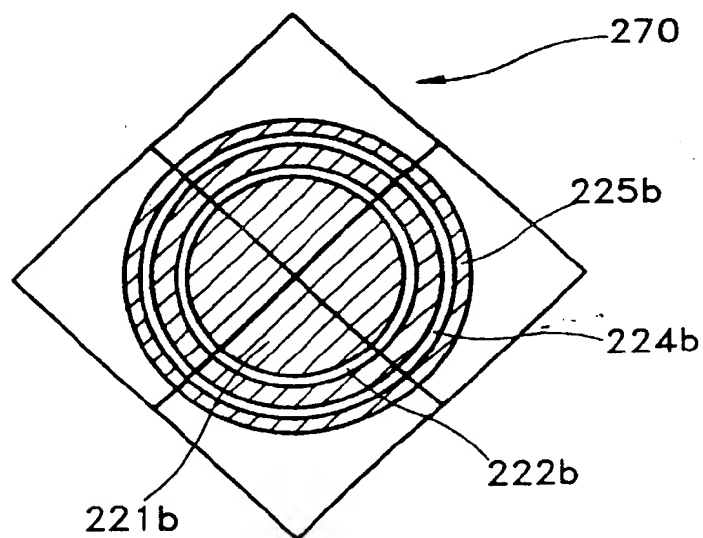


FIG. 19

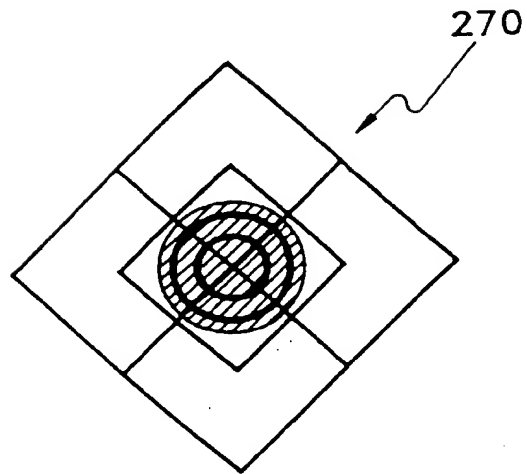


FIG. 20

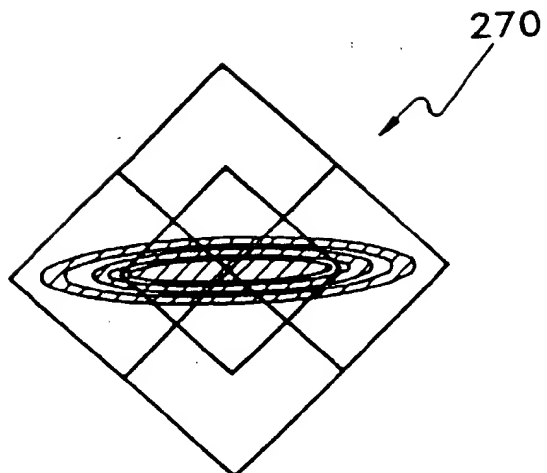
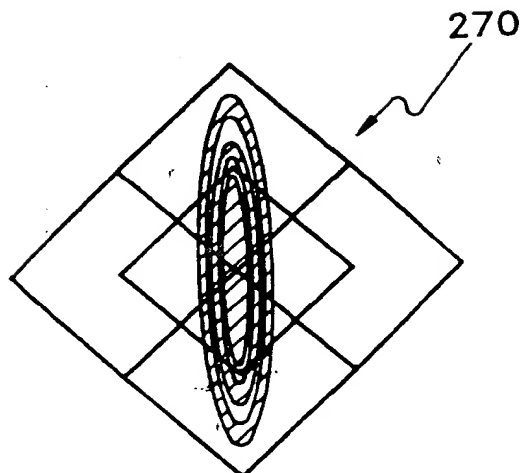


FIG. 21





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 0996

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
E	WO 97 08691 A (SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO LTD) 6 March 1997 * the whole document *	1-24	G11B7/125 G11B7/13
A	US 5 072 437 A (CHIKUMA KIYOFUMI) 10 December 1991 * abstract * * column 3, line 45 - line 47; figure 3B *	1-24	
A	US 4 460 990 A (OPHEIJ WILLEM G) 17 July 1984 * column 6, line 14 - line 26 * * column 5, line 51 - line 63; figure 1 *	1-24	
A	US 5 231 624 A (FINEGAN JOEL D) 27 July 1993 * abstract *	1-24	
P,A	EP 0 742 554 A (SANYO ELECTRIC CO) 13 November 1996 * the whole document *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G11B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 17 June 1997	Examiner Poth, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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